An ACCOUNT of the present State IRELAND *is in, under King* JAMES: *And the deplorable Condition of the* Protestants.

LICENS'D, *January* 21. 1690. No. 524.

ALL Petitions are preferred either to the Lords of the Treasury or Committee of Council, K. *James* doing nothing himself; If from the Country, to the Lieutenants or Deputies of Counties; by this means the *Papists* put what injuries they please on *Protestants*, tho never so contrary to their own Proclamations, as in the matter of Churches, most of which are, notwithstanding the Proclamation of *December* 13. taken from the Protestants in this manner; for it was kept up 6 days before it was published, in which time they took most of those they had not seized before, about 24 in the Diocess of *Dublin*, besides *Christ-church*; and some they have taken since the Proclamation; but not any restored, tho there are positive Orders to restore some: So that it is computed about Nine-Tenths of the Churches are taken from the *Protestants*. The Clergy must be obeyed, saying, *the K. hath nothing to do in Spiritual Matters*. Several debates have been held, How to dispose of the *Protestants*, if an *English* Army should approach *Dublin*. 1. For turning them out of Town into the Mountains of *Wicklow*. 2. For Murthering them. 3. To Burn the City, when they see they must part with it. 4. For imposing an Oath, which is done in the Country, to be true to K. *James*, and the P. of *Wales*. One *Connor*, an *Irish man*, pretended to the employment of Surveyor of the Kings Buildings, which was possessed by Mr. *Spike* an *English* Man, to accomplish, contrived a Treasonable Letter, directed to Mr. *Spike* from *Enniskilling*, but drop'd it in the Castle; and being discovered, the villany was detected. They are very solicitous to fill up their Troops, and to that end the Priests all over the Country tell them, *They must go and serve* K. James, *or else it is a mortal sin*. They may possibly have as great an Army as the last Campaign at *Ardee*, which consisted of 7000 Horse, and 40000 Foot, with the Militia; they intend 1000 Foot about *Dublin*, and five Troops of Horse. They have Coyned in Brass Money, and have Coined, as is supposed, between 4 or 500000 *l.* They likewise have a Mint at *Limerick* where they Coyn. This advantage is by their Brass Money that it Circulates more than Silver; for those that have it are very uneasy until they dispose of it, either in Woull, Wheat, Beef, Tallow, Hides, or any the Commodities of the Country, whereby there is a vast Stock in *Dublin*, and most in the *Protestants* hands and its feared will be seized as soon as the *Papists* have occasion for them; or that a *French* Fleet shall arrive, which is expected in *March*: On Board whereof they intend to put a full Loading of the most valuable Commodities of the Kingdom. The Soldiers in *Dublin* quarter generally in Absentees Houses, the Liberties of St *Sepulchres* and *Thomas* Court. All care is taken to arm their Soldiers, Mr. *John Brown* the Lawyer hath undertaken to make Musquet barrels, and hath about 150 Men at work most of them Protestants; and for that Match is wanting, and the Men do not readily learn to use a Match-lock, they have all the Smiths in *Dublin* at work that can make Fire locks, and have gone a great way therein: They have but few Pikes, but think their Scyths will supply that want. They have attempted to make Saltpetre and Gunpowder at *Limerick*: but 'tis said the Powder made there is so weak, it is useless; but for this they depend wholly upon the *French*. They are well supplied with Lead, not having hitherto medled with that which covers the Churches, and Weights, and the like. To provide Iron, they have set the Iron-works in *Wicklow*, and those that belong to Sir *H Waddington* and others in *Connaught*, a going. And for providing their Men with Cloathing and Feeding, they have made Stores of the Goods of Absentees; but the Account which is given to the King of these Goods, is not reputed the hundredth of what was seized from the Protestants. In *Dublin* and other places they have made Stores of Hay, and Oats, and the like; they distribute to every Trooper about 20 pound thereof daily; they use all means to have Frizes, Hats, Cloths, Shirts, Flasks, Bionets, Shoes, *&c.* made for the use of the Army: Two Protestant Hatters in *Dublin* are to furnish for their own share 4000 Hats. This is the Work of the Lords of the Treasury, which they so closely apply, that they mind little else. Several Regiments, or Detachments of them, go daily to *Dublin* to be Cloathed; and 'tis believed *Dublin* wil be able to cloath and feed the whole Army for the next Campaign. For Carriages, they cut down all the Ashes which are to be found, so that all the *English* Improvements, and the delicate fine Seats about *Dublin*, and Groves, are destroy'd; and are about to make a new sort of Carr, which will carry about 6 or 700 weight more than the former Carriages they used. Fuel is very scarce about *Dublin*, most of the Hedges being cut down, and the Posts and Rails in the City destroyed. Wood is at 3 *l.* a Cord. Many waste Houses are pull'd down, and all Floors and Pieces taken up. Wheat is about 10 *s.* a Strike, Barley at 6 *s.* and Maslin at 9 *s.* But this seems not so much a scarcity, as from the Brass-money, want of Carriage, Citizens earnestness to lay in Stores, the deepness of Way, and shortness of days, and the great abundance of Grain they have sowed, most thinking that the best way of disposing, and those that have it, desire not to part with it more than of necessity they must. The Brass-money, notwithstanding all the endeavours they could use, is fallen in its value, occasioned by some of their own Party going for *Scotland* or *France*, or that intended to hoard the Silver and Gold they got in exchange; so that a *Guinea* was sold for 40 or 50 *s.* But this is prohibited by Proclamation Commissioners are appointed to view all Hay-yards, and Grain in Farmers hands, who are to bring it into Stores, and Rates appointed, and none to be left, but as much as is necessary for subsistance for Bread. Several persons are at considerable expence to procure Protection to keep their Hay; but now all is seized, and the Ld. Primate *Boyle* not permitted so much as to keep two Blind Horses, which are all they have left him: And it cannot be believed they will have Forrage to serve them to the end of *March*. Beef, Mutton, Butter, and all Provisions are exceeding dear, and must become dearer; for that no Farmer hath any Hay left, and all the Grass hath been destroyed by the Creats, and it will be late in the year before Cattel will be fit to be killed. Multitudes of their Horses are dead, and more like to dye; for that the Farmers have purposely wrought them very low, thereby to preserve them from the Dragoons: So that they will not be able to recover. Two Gabbards were sent from *Dublin* to *Dundalk* with Hay. Monsiur *Boisleau*, Major-General, hath seized, upon the value of *Protestants* Goods, upwards of 30000 *l.* and sent them for *France*. Ale is at 3 *d.*

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per Quart, and Strong Beer is at 8 d. for that there is no Hops. They ſeem to alter their reſolutions every day, whereof they have theſe advantages, that no *Proteſtants* can foreſee what to do, and cannot provide for the time to come; and Intelligence is ſo uncertain, that *Proteſtants* know not what to credit their Clergy dayly inventing falſe News, and then make a jeſt thereof. Whileſt Major-General *Mackarty* was a Priſoner at *Eniskilling* they had conſtant intelligence of what paſſed in our Army; and to this it was that the *Papiſts* recovered *Sligo*: But ſince his eſcape they are not ſo well informed. Major *Booth* at *Derry* endeavours the like Practices; and 'tis reported, That he found a means for the eſcape of two of the Lord *Gormoy*'s Regiment, then his fellow Priſoners in *Derry*, and ſent all the Intelligence he could with them: They came to K *James* about the middle of *January*, and more ſuch Inſtruments are daily expected. They hear but ſeldom from *England*, except by means of Deſerters, whereof there are about 30, but not a Proteſtant among them. It would not be very difficult to ſend to the King's Armies from *Dublin*, were it not for the Creats upon the Borders, who do more ſtrictly examine than the Soldiers of the Army in Gariſon. The *Papiſts* chief hopes depends upon *France*, from whence they daily expect a Fleet of Ships, with Ammunition, Salt, Brandy, and 7000 Fuſialeers, and intend to ſend as many of their New Levies to be trained up under the Command of Major General *Mackarty*, who left his Honour at *Inniskilling*. The Count *de Lauzun* is reported to command the *French*, and alſo to be Ambaſſador. Monſieur *d'Avaux* is returning, and is to be ſent to Negotiate Affairs at *Rome*. The *French* Fleet are certainly expected in *March* at which time King *James* ſuppoſes to have 20000 Men in readineſs to join them, and expect to be furniſhed with 100 Sail of Shipping from *France*; and give out, They have a great Party in *England* and *Scotland*; whereof they were lately ſo much poſſeſſed, that ſeveral appeared more vigorouſly for them; and ſome are ſo vain, as to talk of Landing Forces in *England*, and have of late ſent one *Thompſon*, a Seaman who deſerted, and whoſe Friends live about *Whitehaven*, to bring them Intelligence, and, its ſaid, two Lords with him. Collonel *Buchan* and ſome *Scotch* Officers, are gone for *Scotland* with ſome money for Collonel *Cannon*, with as many Cloaths, Brogues and Men as can be ſtowed in a Pink of 140 Tuns; Their Deſign is variouſly ſpoken of at this Court. 'Tis ſaid, That there is an Aſſociation in that Kingdom, and that they will riſe at the landing of thoſe Officers; That the Party that are to riſe have all ſworn Allegiance to King *William*; but that being forced upon them, they do not hold themſelves obliged to keep. Some of thoſe Officers talk as if they would endeavour to raiſe their Friends; which if they cannot effect, that then they will make their peace, for here they are neither well uſed, truſted, nor valued by the Natives; Others think this is done only to amuſe. Some words have been dropped as if K *William* were not to live long, and that thereupon they ground their greateſt hopes for managing the next Campaign. If they cannot have a great Party in *England* or *Scotland*, they wholly apply themſelves to a defenſive War, and do ſuppoſe they cannot be diſturbed from the *North* till Forces land from *England* in ſome part of *Munſter*, whereof they are much afraid; but they hope the *French* will firſt be there. It is reported the *French* are to have the Towns of *Cork*, *Kingſale*, *Waterford*, *Toughall*, *Roſs*, &c and ſo ſecure *Munſter*, that the *Engliſh* ſhall have no place of ſhelter in that Province, before they be oblig'd to beſiege one of thoſe Places; and they conceive that in one or two Sieges, the Summer may be ſpent: And while matters are ſo managed in *Munſter* that K. J. will with his Forces oppoſe the Armies from the *North*, tho he will by all means avoid Fighting, and apply all to preſerve *Dublin*, which is no otherwiſe ſtrong than by what Numbers of Men will be thereabouts, not having as yet fortified it. And they alſo ſuſtain themſelves with this hope, That they ſhall be able to preſerve themſelves next Summer, and to provide better for the following Winter; for that that there is a great abundance of Corn Sowed; and, hitherto, very many Cattel. And tho the Raperees have deſtroyed vaſt Numbers, now great care is taken to preſerve what remain for when the Raperees had taken all the Proteſtants, they began to ſeize their own People. But the Government begins to be very ſevere with them; and to that purpoſe have iſſued out Commiſſions of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, whereby ſeveral of them have been Executed. But to ſuch as will change their courſe of Life, and betake themſelves to the Army, they are Pardoned. One difficulty they lie under, is, to get Horſes for their Troops, and for Carriage; whereof they have loſt great Numbers by their ill Uſage and the Careleſneſs of the Men: but they hope by theſe ill conveniencies, all have ſeen, will make them better Managers hereafter. And care is taken to teach the New-raiſed Troopers how to take Care of their Horſes; and thoſe that prove negligent therein are ſevere'y puniſhed. They have a conſiderable Number of Cattle and Sheep about *Galloway*; and in that Country there is Hay for 2 or 3000 Horſe: and they might as well have been provided in other Countries, had the like Care been uſed which was in that Country, which they are fully reſolved to uſe next Summer, and to provide well for the next Winter. They do not doubt, if they can prolong the War, that they will, either by means of ſome Revolution, or upon the Concluſion of a general Peace in *Europe*, make good and advantagious Terms for themſelves. But, notwithſtanding all whereby they raiſe and preſerve their Hopes, there are few, even Papiſts, that come out of *England*, but wiſh themſelves there again.

It is not probable that K *James* can take the Field till Graſs is ſufficiently grown for Forrage. His Forces are at preſent ſtrangely ſcattered, few Regiments having one half their Compliment; but next Month their Prieſts and Officers will bring them in. They fear exceedingly the *Engliſh* Army getting into the Field before them, and ſo become Maſters of *Dublin* thereby, and the help of Shipping: whereupon they would immediately cloſe all *Northward*, and all the *South*, as far as *Kilkenny*. They are alſo very apprehenſive that *Cork* may be ſeized; and have ſuſpected that an Army was to Land at *Broad-Iſland*, which lies between the City and the Sea, and contains about 7000 Acres, and to be entred into only at one Place, and at low Water: And about the beginning of *January*, the Lord of *Clare* went thither, with about 150 Men, which they reported to be 7 or 8000. and ſo ſecured all the Proteſtants in the Iſland, and ſeized their Church, and hath declared, That if the *Engliſh* Land, he will burn the Town, if he cannot keep it. The ordinary *Engliſh* are reduced to very great wants; whereof the Papiſts make this advantage, That they prevail with them to engage in their Service; and being once there, are hard to be got out. The Gariſon of *Droghedah* is ill provided, having moſt of their Proviſions from *Dublin*; thoſe of greateſt bulk by Water. A difference between Major General *Mackarty* and the Lord *Clare*, but removed; ſome Perſons have undertaken to exchange the Commodities of this Country with the *French* for Military Neceſſaries; but this cannot yet be practiſed for want of Shipping. They imploy Gunſmiths at *Killkenny*, where there is plenty of Coals. Notice was taken that the Proteſtant Clergy did not Pray for the Prince of *Wales*; there were Spies ſent into the Churches, but the Proteſtants having Notice, prevented. K *James* hath given a Commiſſion to *Oneil*, Governor of *Dundalk*, to hang, and the like: The Soldiers Plunder and commit great Diſorders in the Market with the Bakers and Butchers: the latter preſerving themſelves with their Knives. Monſieur *d'Abeville* hath wrote Circular Letters to Commiſſioners of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, to puniſh all Proteſtant Offenders: he is Chief Secretary of State, and one of the moſt moderate Men among them. As for K. *James*, he only delights to hear Father *Hall* Preach, who perſwades him that all the Miracles of St. *Patrick*, St. *Bridget*, St. *Collumbe*, fall ſhort of what his Miracles will be in future Ages, having performed ſo many Works of Supererogation: and that *Ireland* will be truly *inſula Sanctorum*, which it was of Old.

LONDON: Printed for *R. Baldwin* in the *Old Bailey*. 1690.